

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

D SINCE 1877  
CH 23, 2006  
VOL. 130  
NO. 12

MAY 29 2006

## Disaster Relief to host training at Central Hills

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force will conduct training for church and associational disaster relief teams, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 1 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. Training will be offered in sheltering, feeding, chainsaw, childcare, mud-out, Ham radio technician licensing, chaplaincy, and Blue Cap (leadership).

Registration fee is \$6 per person, which includes lunch prepared from the task force's mass feeding unit that was stationed for several months on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Registration is required; total number of attendees and registration fees must be mailed by March 31 deadline to the post office box listed below.

Attendees must be members of church or associational disaster relief teams. For more information on how to become a disaster relief volunteer, contact your local Mississippi Baptist church or association office, or call the Men's Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org

## NAMB missionaries at home in Canada

WESTBANK, British Columbia (Special) — For 10 years now, North American missionaries Kevin and Alicia Madden have lived 2,200 miles away from Kevin's birthplace of Washington, Ga. — an historic little town located about 100 miles east of Atlanta. Today, their home and hearts are firmly rooted in Canada.

Madden is a church planting missionary and senior pastor of The Potter's House Community Church in Westbank, British Columbia, a community of 30,000 people, located about four hours from Vancouver. British Columbia is Canada's far-western province, just above Washington State.

Kevin and Alicia Madden are among the over 5,200 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The 2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$56 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like the Maddens.

"We are so blessed by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," said Madden. "As part of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, we work very closely with the North American Mission Board. The funds from the Annie Armstrong Offering help as a supplement to my salary, and help us with many of the ministries we carry out as a church plant. The chairs we sit on in church were provided by Annie Armstrong money."

"It's really hard to imagine our work and our ministry without the kind of support we've had through the Annie Armstrong Offering and through our network of partners. We've been very blessed as a church, but the need is great."

Westbank runs counter to every image Americans have about Canada. There's no frozen tundra, and the climate is mild compared to most of Canada. It's a rich agricultural region known for its wine country and fruit orchards including cherries, pears, apricots, plums, apples, peaches, and grapes.

Gigantic Okanagan Lake nearby draws thousands of tourists who come



PRAYING TOGETHER — Georgia and Southwestern Seminary graduate Kevin Madden prays with a member of his congregation at The Potter's House Community Church in Westbank, British Columbia. Madden is a church planting missionary and the senior pastor of The Potter's House Church. (NAMB photo by Adam Buchanan)

for the fishing and water sports. During a couple of weeks in the summer, temperatures can climb up to 100 degrees.

"Our Southern Baptist association alone spans a length of 1,200 miles from north to south and 900 miles from east to west," Madden said. "There are pastors that I've never met in our association, even in the almost 10 years we've been here."

Reflecting the country of Canada at large, there's an overwhelming need for more churches in the Westbank area, according to Madden, who says that only five to eight percent of people in the region profess a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Some 90% of the population never go to church.

After graduating from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, and serving as pastor at churches in South Carolina and Texas, it was a close relationship with another couple that pushed Canada to the front and center of Madden's radar screen for missions.

"We became overwhelmed with the lostness of Canada. God pushed us out of the nest and into churching planting. We saw a great need in Westbank, where the population is growing tremendously and is projected to continue to grow."

"Oddly enough, this feels more like home now than when we go back to Georgia," said Madden.

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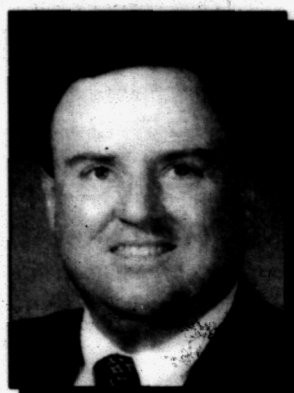
National Goal: \$56,000,000

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## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Matt Broome  
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING  
Dana Richardson  
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS  
Don McGregor

### Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

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### Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800  
Fax: (601) 292-3330  
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 12  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.  
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.  
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.  
Deadlines: News items — one calendar  
week prior to requested publication date.  
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to  
requested publication date. All submissions  
are subject to editing.

# Land grabs a danger to churches

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 23 of last year in *Kelo et al v. City of New London* that government has the right to seize land under eminent domain for virtually any "economic development" scheme, commentators and observers warned that almost every American would eventually be affected in some way. They were right.

From venerable family estates in Florida to small businesses and moderate-income residences in New Jersey, politicians intent on currying favor with deep-pocket donors have been busily gobbling up privately-owned land and turning it over to rich developers for such "public projects" as marinas for multi-million-dollar yachts, upscale shopping centers, and stock car racetracks.

The news comes as no surprise, therefore, that Southern Baptists are about to lose their first church to this gross miscarriage of law.

The Filipino Baptist Fellowship, a small band of believers in Long Beach, Ca., lost a crucial battle last week when the city's Redevelopment Board voted unanimously to condemn the church under eminent domain so that luxury condominiums can be constructed by a private, for-profit developer. The city attorney can now proceed with the legal maneuvers necessary to confiscate the church's property.

After meeting in other churches in the area for about 16 years, the Filipino Baptist Fellowship was finally able to raise enough money to purchase their present property in 2002. Greedy developers and craven politicians set their sights on the church's land shortly after the *Kelo* ruling, using nearby blighted properties as their excuse for targeting the church.

"IT APPEARS WE CAN FORGET ABOUT  
EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS—SINCE  
FEWER THAN A FOURTH OF THEM VOTED  
IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION."



"I had no illusions that we were going to stop the vote, but what was most discouraging was the utter lack of any evidence on why this was necessary to cure some blighted areas blocks away," said John Eastman, attorney for the church and director of the Claremont Institute's Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence in Claremont, Ca. "They didn't bother to answer that. That was their legal obligation, and they went ahead and condemned a church anyway."

We can surely expect more such outrages in the future. "The specter of condemnation hangs over all property," wrote Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in her dissent to the *Kelo* ruling. "Nothing is to prevent the state from replacing any

Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

The usual liberal voting bloc on the court is responsible for this debacle: John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Anthony Kennedy. (So much for the argument that Supreme Court nominees must be "balanced" and "mainstream.")

A particularly troubling aspect of the Filipino Baptist Fellowship story was pointed out by Eastman: "They're taking this church out and there is no provision for churches anywhere in the redevelopment project. They think they can revitalize gang areas by kicking out the churches? It just makes no sense."

"One of the people that testified yesterday (at the Redevelopment Board hearing) said, 'You know, you take a rundown house and you knock it down and you put a nicer house in and you put the same people in it. Unless they've got some churches, they're still going to be gang members.'"

In post-Christian America, churches are apparently becoming expendable if they are in the path of high-dollar secular developments.

It would behoove us to remember that many national trends — good and bad — have started in California and moved eastward in a matter of a few years. It probably won't be that long before some of our smaller and thus more vulnerable Mississippi Baptist churches fall into the clutches of quick-buck politicians and ruthless developers — and don't be surprised if the state's massive gambling/political complex is pulling many of the levers behind the scenes to make it happen.

After all, who else opposes their quest for total control of this state? Think about it.

Based in part on reporting by Erin Roach of Baptist Press.

Each year, we honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the annual offering for home missions named after her.

As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annie believed in Christ with all her heart, but it was her hands that expressed that belief in tangible ways. She spent a great amount of time writing letters in support of missions.

Many of the letters were quite lengthy and all were filled with conviction that more could and should be done in our mission efforts. In 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters! Annie also never hesitated to use her hands to reach out to hug a child or distribute food and clothing and the Word of God to those in need. Her hands held her own Bible as she stud-



## Who was Annie Armstrong?

ied to know how best to share God's love with others and, most important, Annie was a woman of prayer, folding her hands in prayer to intercede for the missionaries and for those they were helping discover Christ.

The first Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was conducted in 1934. Today, missionaries utilize gifts to the offering in a variety of ways:

\$1 — Dozen pencils, a pair of scissors, clear tape, or other school supplies for needy children. Evangelistic tracts for use by a literacy missionary. A cup of coffee for a student who is interested in talking to a missionary about Christianity.

Evangelistic tracts to distribute in a neighborhood where a new church is starting.

\$2 — Flyers to advertise a special event for a new church. Subway pass to visit a prospect for a new church.

\$3 — Meal for a child at a block party.

\$5 — Free pizza to university students attending a Bible study.

\$8 — 100 promotional Frisbees™ at a beach or park.

\$10 — JESUS video in different languages. Bible in the native language of an international student.

\$15 — Sunday morning snacks (orange juice, donuts, paper products) for a new church.

\$17 — A Bible for a teenage girl in an outreach ministry.

\$20 — Promotional flyers for an evangelistic block party in an apartment complex.

\$25 — Pianist for one worship service in new church.

\$30 — Refreshments for children attending a Bible study as part of a new church start.

\$50 — A weeklong camping experience for one inner-city child. Water bottles imprinted with church information for tourists at a resort.

\$75 — Building rental for one Sunday worship service in new church start.

\$100 — Printing flyers to advertise a new church.

Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more, and do more for reaching people for Christ. As we continue to unite to make her vision a reality in North America today, we can be confident that her legacy will also be ours.

Based on information provided by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.



# Missionary seeks souls in fishing paradise

TOLEDO BEND, La. (Special) — For spunky, fast-talking, fast-walking Mary Gore, it's just another Saturday in bass-fishing paradise Toledo Bend, La. Mary is busy doing what she does best — fishing not for largemouth bass, but for souls.

To say "Miss Mary," as she calls herself, has a passion for winning others to Christ is like saying seafood prepared by Louisiana chefs is just another meal. Both fall into the "gross understatement" category.

On this particularly gorgeous Saturday afternoon, she's making the rounds of about 70 campsites at North Toledo Bend State Park, just outside Zwolle, La. At each campsite, she's inviting campers who've come from all over the country to be her special guests at an 8:30 a.m. worship service the next day.

Some Sundays, Mary may lead 30-minute worship services in as many as five different campgrounds. The services may take place in one of the lake's gazebos or in a local bait and tackle shop.

A native of Silsbee, Texas— with the east Texas drawl to match — Mary is a North American Mission Board resort missionary for Toledo Bend, a mecca for professional and amateur bass fishermen alike. The lake, located in the west-central part of Louisiana, actually makes up 70 miles of the Louisiana-Texas border. It includes 185,000 acres of surface water and 1,200 miles of shoreline, and is one of the country's largest man-made reservoirs.

Now in her thirteenth year at Toledo Bend, Mary is always on the go working across four parishes (counties) and in five Baptist associations — and she's only one of over 5,200 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The 2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$56 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like Mary.

"You know, people aren't sitting still waiting on me to show up. There are people all over this lake. We'll probably have 30,000 people through this weekend. Now, I can't talk to all 30,000 of them in one weekend, but I'm going to talk to as many as I can."

"We have to go where the people are," Mary said. "We take the church outside. We want to give people the chance to not



WARM AND DRY — "Miss Mary" Gore bundles up a child against a sudden rainstorm at Toledo Bend State Park in Louisiana. Gore is a NAMB resort missionary supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

only know His creation, but also to meet the Creator. Sometimes, you just have to take church to where the people are.

"Jesus, when He gave the Great Commission, said 'Go, and make disciples.' I've yet to find a verse that said, 'Come and invite them to your air-conditioned, padded pew church building.'"

"Jesus went out with the fishermen. He preached on the seashore and He preached from a boat. He went to the marketplace. He preached up on the side of a mountain. He didn't always stay in the synagogue. We're just trying to follow Jesus' example, trying to be His hands and feet to reach a lost and dying world."

Inviting campers to a church service is only one of Mary's methods designed to draw people to Christ. She may conduct backyard Bible clubs for children. Dressed in her "Jesus: That Is My Final Answer" T-shirt, she wows kids with puppet shows. She quenches the thirst of campers by distributing bottles of water with the plan of salvation imprinted on the label.

"Our 'Fun in the Sun Club' is a day camp for kids, which we conduct in parks, private marinas, neighborhoods

around the lake and even in some of the local housing projects," said Mary. "It has all the ingredients of a church's Vacation Bible School: Bible lessons, music, crafts, recreation and snacks. We just do it outside."

Because she sees her role as a calling and not merely a job, Mary's work hours are not the typical nine-to-five. Sometimes, she holds a "service" around a toasty campfire on a chilly, pine-scented Louisiana night — a service heavy with the strum of guitars, soft singing, and casual conversation about what it means to be a Christian.

"I try to show folks that being a Christian is not a list of things they can't do, that it's not something that's dull and boring and where fun is outlawed," said Mary.

"People like to fish and camp, so I try to emphasize how fishing and camping are good things. I have a ball coming out here and visiting with the campers. Hey, maybe they're frying fish and I may get a piece of fish out of it, who knows?" she said.

## Record

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 23, 2006

VOL. 130

No. 12

### AAEO allocations

This year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions goal of \$56 million will continue to help more than 5,200 missionaries, many of them jointly sponsored through partnerships with NAMB and state conventions. Here is an overview of how the 2006 offering will be spent:

**75% (\$42,000,000)**  
Missionary Support  
Salaries  
Health benefits  
Missionary Orientation  
Ongoing missionary training expenses

**15% (\$8,400,000)**  
Church Planting Support  
Rental of facilities  
Materials  
Promotional expenses

**10% (\$5,600,000)**  
Evangelism Support  
Scripture distribution  
Sports evangelism  
Special evangelism events  
Media campaigns

### Looking back

10 years ago

S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, pastor of Forest Church, Forest, is elected as the state's new director of evangelism at the March 7 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee.

20 years ago

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, the last layman to be elected SBC president in 1972-74, challenges a statement by W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, that a laity-led church is "a weak church anywhere on God's earth."

60 years ago

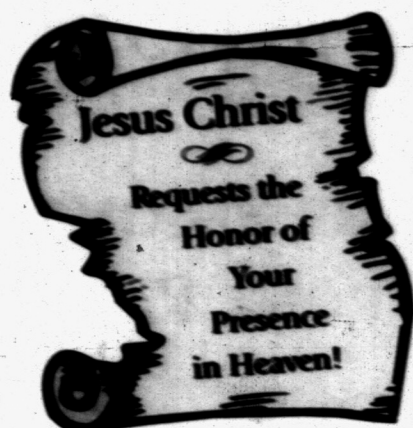
Baptists held the spotlight in the nation's capital as President Truman, a Baptist himself, meets 32 Baptist missionaries who were in D.C. for observance of World Mission Week. A former missionary to Palestine, Mississippian Leo Eddleman, tells reporters that the solution of the Arab-Jewish issue in Palestine is "utterly hopeless."

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**National Goal**  
**\$55,000,000**

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with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eter-  
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and  
rose from the grave to forgive  
my sins and to restore my  
relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a  
loving relationship with Him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to  
become children of God, even to  
those who believe in his name."  
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiri-  
tual guidance.*

## THE PRECIOUS PATHS OF LIFE

Recently, a dear man in one of our churches was talking with me after a worship service. I had met him, gotten to know him, and been enriched and blessed by his testimony. He had been brought through some of life's most difficult experiences by the grace of God. On this particular night, he told me about a day when his sons and some of their buddies were playing ball out in the front yard. These boys had mapped out their own little baseball field running from tree to tree. In doing so they had literally killed the grass and worn a dirt path in the yard. The dad had gone out to talk to the boys, not so much to scold them but to redirect them. He pointed out to them that their constant ball playing and running the base paths between the trees had killed the grass and made a bare pathway. It was the father's thinking that they probably needed to start playing ball in the backyard so the paths would not be in the front yard. The youngest of his sons, just a little fellow, was listening more than saying anything. After the dad had given his instructions and redirections, the little fellow spoke up and said, "Dad, have you ever thought that one day you might want to look out here and see those paths?" It was one of those out-of-the-mouths-of-babes-come-great-wisdom kind of moments. The dad quickly recognized the wisdom in his son's words and told the boys to continue their playing in the front yard.



## Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

In time the little fellow who asked the question grew up, finished school, joined the military, and went off to war in the Persian Gulf. The dad, who was now older and wiser himself, wrote to his son almost every day and never missed more than one day. He often remembered the question his soldier son had asked. He wished that he could look out in the front yard and see the paths that had been created by the little feet of young boys playing baseball.

The son finished his tour of duty in the war zone and returned home, safe and whole. Not too long after he returned home this young man tragically and sadly lost his life. Never a day passes without the father thinking about his son, and few days pass without him thinking about the question that years ago his young son asked him, "Dad, have you ever thought that one day you might want to look out here and see those paths?" Indeed, many, many times he would give anything to see those well-worn base paths between the trees. Now they can only be seen in his memory.

As I talked with the father and listened to this moving and beautiful story, my heart was immediately touched, moved, and blessed. I thought about how many times we allow the love experiences to wear on us and even begin to irritate us. The repetitious sounds of a little child seem as though they will never end, but so quickly they are gone. Those things sometimes disturb parents, but later they look back and wish that they could hear one more giggle as the child drops the peas on the floor.

I thought about husbands and wives who pick out the little things in a relationship that become an irritant, wear each other down, and create a dirt path in life. They let these little things disturb their fun and their relationship only to look back and wish that one more time they could relive the misplacing of her keys or his forgetting or at least failing to pick up things and put them back in order like they were before he came into the room. Sometimes life and love create pathways that may momentarily irritate, only for us to wish later that we could see those paths again.

Are their paths around your house that you wish were not there? Are there muddy spots on the carpet from little feet, water all over the bathroom floor because of a fun time in the bath tub, muddy garb piled up after the guys in the family returned from a great deer hunt, or piles of bags and sacks the girls in the family have brought home after a successful shopping spree at the Big Sale? These and many other items form some of the parts of life that at the moment can be disconcerting. We may even wish that they were gone so that life could be neat, cleanly packaged, easily handled, and so the grass can grow up between the trees and everything look okay. Well, some day life will change, and you may be looking out upon the landscape of relationships wishing that you could see those paths again.

Let me encourage you to listen to the Scripture and put it into practice when it says, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). Take the well-worn paths of love and see the joys of boys playing baseball in the front yard rather than the dead grass that creates the base path. Stop, reconsider, and evaluate the joyful side of love rather than just the down side. With a little bit of effort and a great deal of looking to the Lord, you can turn almost all of life's brown base paths into big ole blessings.

*The author may be contacted at  
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-  
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*

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**YOUTH — F/T ASSOCIATE YOUTH PASTOR**, (with additional responsibilities such as education). Contemporary/Traditional Worship in West St. Louis County, MO. Send resume to Youth Search Committee, Ballwin Baptist Church, 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011-4629, email [youth@ballwinbaptist.com](mailto:youth@ballwinbaptist.com).

**SULLIVAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, KINGSFORD, TN** is accepting resumes for the DOM position until March 31. Send to SBADOM, Arden Taylor, 171 Promise Land Drive, Gray, TN 37615 or [ataylor@tcbchurch.org](mailto:ataylor@tcbchurch.org) with statement telling why God is leading you to seek this position.

## MS POSITIONS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH**, located on Hwy 98, approximately 13 miles west of Hattiesburg, MS, is looking for a Minister of Youth/Education. If you are interested in the position please send your resume to: First Baptist Church Oloh, attn: Personnel Committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall MS 39482, Phone: (601) 264-8868, Fax: (601) 264-8813, [fbcoloh@megagate.com](mailto:fbcoloh@megagate.com).

**EVANGELISTIC GROWING CHURCH** looking for like-minded Minister of Education/Sr. Adult Minister. Please send resume to: P.O. Box 246, Purvis, MS 39475.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLORA** is accepting resumes for the full-time position of associate pastor in charge of music and preschool, children, adult and mature adult activities. The primary responsibility is in the area of music ministry. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS 39071.

**SILVER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a minister of music. It is a part-time, paid position with some benefits. Please send resume to chairman of search committee, 1009 Berry Lane, Osyka, MS 39657.

**HARMONTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH** is accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Music. Submit resumes to Harmontown Baptist Church, Attention: Personnel Committee, 24 County Road 509, Como, MS 38619.

**For the "Right Deal"  
on a Church Bus ...**

**Call Bill Clark  
601-750-2344 or 601-992-4149**



**RiteWay Bus Sales**  
2809 Hwy 49 South, Florence, MS 39073



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 23, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## 2006 REGIONAL RALLIES

8:30-11:30 a.m.

COST: \$2 (at the door)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Frank Pollard, former pastor of FBC, Jackson

### SOUTH RALLY

August 29

Salem Heights BC  
Laurel (601-763-7570)

Choir: Fairview Seniors, Columbus

### CONFERENCES

- Funtime Conference with Clint & Jarvis
- Finishing Well as an Experienced Disciple  
Tom Crocker  
LifeWay consultant, Memphis
- Raising the Bar for Senior Ministries  
Glenn Shows, MBCB

### NORTH RALLY

August 31

FBC, Batesville (662-563-7655)

Choir: Reflections, Senior Choir FBC, Jackson

### CONFERENCES

- Songs Through the Decades  
Eva Hart, Jackson
- Leadership Conference: "Exercise! Why should we continue to exercise in our Senior years?"  
Dave Smith  
Min. of recreation/senior adults  
Harrisburg BC, Tupelo
- Finishing Well as an Experienced Disciple  
Tom Crocker, LifeWay consultant, Memphis

For info: Discipleship and Family Ministry, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-2922-373 or gshows@mbcb.org

## LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2006

APRIL 8, 2006

9 A.M.-3 P.M.

CENTRAL HILLS  
BAPTIST RETREAT  
KOSCIUSKO

COST: \$4

BRISK A BISK LUNCH

ENTRANCE WILL BE PROVIDED



INFO: CONTACT MEN'S MINISTRY  
601-292-3335 OR 1-800-748-1651



Annual Missions Celebration  
2006

Live the Call

"As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work." Colossians 1:10 (the Message)

April 28-29, 2006

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison

Hear from missionary, Bonita Wilson, Pac Rim; our new state president, Donna Swarts; LifeWay's Leighann McCoy; national wMu's Caroline Jones and Kym Mitchell along with the inspiring message of Dennis Ray Smith, FBC, Pascagoula, and many more.



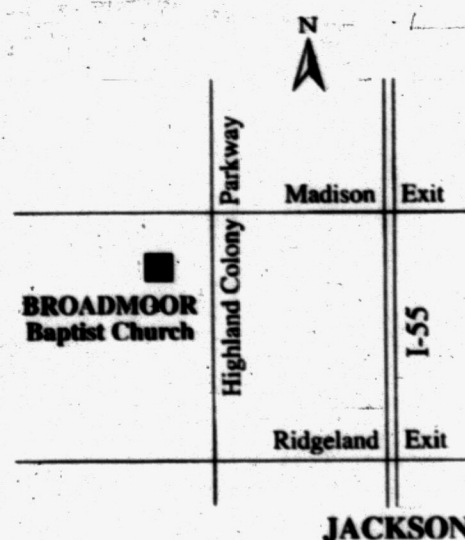
Donna Swarts

### FRIDAY, APRIL 28

- 2:30 p.m. General Session  
3:00 - 5:15 Conference Tracks\* or browse displays  
Associational Missions Leadership Training Track  
Live the Call Track  
5:30 - 6:30 Associational wMu Leadership Teams  
MISSIONS BANQUET  
Reservations required, cost \$8. (No cost for missionary parents, missionaries, associational missions directors and program guests)  
6:30 Worship Celebration I  
Broadmoor adult choir and instrumentalists  
8:15 - 9:30 Conference Tracks\* or browse displays

### SATURDAY, APRIL 29

- 8:30 - 10:45 a.m. Conference Tracks\* or browse displays  
10:45 Worship Celebration II  
Good H2O in concert



### LOCAL MOTELS

Drury Inn & Suites, 601-956-6100  
Hampton Inn, 601-956-3611  
Mention you are with the MBCB Woman's Missionary Union when making reservations.

For more info, contact the Miss. wMu at 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3324 or kburns@mbcb.org.



# 2006 PREACHING CONFERENCE

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**First Baptist Church  
Vicksburg  
Monday, April 24**

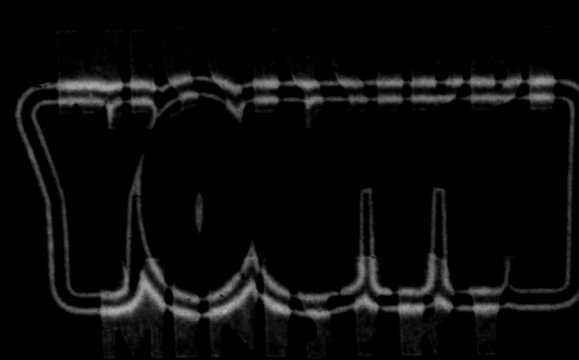
**First Baptist Church  
Starkville  
Tuesday, April 25**

For more info: Call the Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department at 601-292-3305  
or 1-800-748-1651

**Featured Presenter  
Wayne VanHorn**

## Theme

A Preaching Approach to  
the Deuteronomic History:  
Deuteronomy, Joshua,  
Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel,  
I & II Kings



**BEN STUART**  
COLLEGE PRESENTATION TEAM

**COLE NESMITH BAND**  
DELTA STATE

# SuperSummer

JUNE 5-28, 2006

## 2006 Summer Youth Camps



**June 5-28  
Hinds Community College  
Raymond, Miss.**

• Affordable • High Quality Camp for  
your Youth Group • Program fees, meals,  
t-shirt and accommodations total just  
**\$165** per camper • Reservations are  
taken on a first come, first served basis.

Information regarding individual  
programs/schedules may be  
obtained by phoning Youth  
Ministry at 601-292-3286.

## Camp Pastors & Worship Leaders

**June 5-9**

Gary Permenter, Kevin Williams

**June 12-16**

Jon Daniels, Will Reedy

**June 16-20**

Clay Stegall, Will Reedy

**June 20-24**

Ken Hester, Tom Edwards

**June 24-28**

Kevin Cooper, Tom Edwards

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY  
PARENTS FELLOWSHIP

## ALL AROUND THE WORLD WITH LOVE

April 21-22  
Activities Building  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton



**VARIETIES OF  
HELPFUL SESSIONS**  
Friday, 2 - 9:15 p.m.  
Saturday, 8:30 - luncheon

**Anniversary  
Luncheon  
12:30 p.m.**

Register by April 14

Info Contact: Kay McDonnell  
Pastor/Leadership Development  
601-292-3305 or 1-800-748-1651



# Get It Together

## Pastor and Sunday School Director Conference



This will be a great time of fellowship together as the pastor and Sunday School director of your church meet together to recapture the vision for your Sunday School. Participants will experience:

- The purpose of Sunday School – a 1st Century concept in a 21st Century world
- The job description of the pastor, as it pertains to Sunday School
- The job description of the Sunday School director
- How to avoid being the Lone Ranger
- How to plan and dream together

**Monday, May 1**  
Bethlehem BC  
Laurel

**Tuesday, May 2**  
Calvary BC  
Greenwood

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
Conference  
7-8:30 p.m.

A complimentary dinner will be provided for all preregistered participants. To preregister, contact the Sunday School Department, 601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651

# OLDER CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL CAMP '06

For Church Groups of Boys and Girls Grades 3 – 6 (complete)

July 6 – 8 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Any Mississippi Baptist church can bring their children and they will profit from camp whether they have ever done Bible Drill or not.

Each church group must have a male counselor (21 or older) for every 7 boys (or proportion there of) and a female counselor (21 or older) for every 7 girls (or proportion there of). Church counselors are with their children during all camp activities.

### CAMP ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- |                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Bible Study            | • Scripture Memorization | • Rifle Range           |
| • Bible Drill Skills     | • Worship                | (safety & marksmanship) |
| • Time with Missionaries | • Flag Ceremonies        | • Horseback Riding      |
| • Swimming               | • Canoeing               |                         |

\$45 Deposit with Registration, Total Cost \$90

Check-in at camp is at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 6, 2006

For questions about camp program: contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at 1-800-748-1651 or dhicks@mbcb.org.





Pray this day for...

March 24 - April 6, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"There's mighty power tucked away in a praying heart," says a missionary.

There are an estimated 85,000 deaf people in the northeastern Brazil city of Salvador. Please lift up deaf and hearing leaders as they seek God's will in reaching this people group. Pray that the deaf of Salvador may understand the Good News, as many of the deaf are illiterate with limited outside contact.

A group of new believers in a small town among the Muslims of the Balkans are starting to discuss the possibility of meeting regularly for study and prayer. Pray as they begin this new step of faith, and that the Father would lead and teach them. Ask for group unity and love, and that they would meet consistently.

Bill Barker, Hurricane, W.V., national director for Appalachian Regional Ministry, says in central and northern Appalachia, most are unchurched. Pray that God will call mission volunteers to go into these areas and for new churches to be started as a result.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville (D&FM); (2) State Ministry Assistants (Secretaries) Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 3rd - 4th (P/LD); (3) Pray for Pastor S as he tries to balance ministry to his local church, Lyndhurst Baptist Church, Johannesburg, South Africa, and the completion of his doctoral studies.

Missionaries Randy and Karen Bradley, serving in Catamarca, Argentina, ask you to pray for the town of Tinogasta, 15,500, with no evangelical Baptist work. There are a few believers. Pray that the Lord will put the Bradleys in contact with the "gatekeepers" of the city so they can contact the lost.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC & Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) David Bates is a chaplain serving in Germany ministering to soldiers and their families. Pray for the many men and women from the V Corps who are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who will redeploy to the ASG this year.

A Buryat family in a small village in Russia has a believers meeting in their home. Their daughter, M., has a disfigured face and they are seeking treatment options. Ask the Lord to help them find the right doctors and to use this beautiful girl to bring glory to the Lord in their village.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff, AT HOME DAYS, 5th - 7th; (2) Give thanks with L, a church-planting movement catalyst, for three women from her Bible studies in Metro Cebu, Philippines, asking for baptism. Pray for L as she helps the women to realize that following Christ in baptism is a public commitment of all areas of their lives to the Lord.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Biloxi; Hernando BC (D&FM); (2) National Missionary Parent Fellowship, Blue Springs Camp, Marianna, Fla., 30th - April 2 (P/LD); (3) Please pray today for President Tassos Papadopoulos of Cyprus (island south of Turkey in the Mediterranean Sea).

For: (1) Bible Drills, Petal-Harvey BC, Petal; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian (D&FM); (2) Church Library Ministry Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (CS); (3) Islam means submission, total surrender to God. Pray for Muslims throughout the world to recognize Jesus Christ as not only a prophet, but as mankind's Redeemer from their sins.

For: (1) Specialized Worker Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 24th - 25th (invitation only); (2) Mijika Mason, married with three daughters, a chaplain from Fort Stewart, Ga., is serving in the Sunni Triangle of Iraq. He is responsible for the religious, moral, and ethical guidance and morale of 650+ soldiers. Pray for him and his family.

For: (1) Young Ringers Festival, Baptist Building, Jackson (CM); (2) Bible Institutes will be taught this month in Auka, Papalaya, and Puerto Lempira, Honduras. Pray for clarity of mind and spirit for those attending and that God will call out new pastors for training in these remote areas of Honduras.

For: (1) Bible Drills, FBC, Brookhaven; FBC, Greenwood (D&FM); (2) Young Musicians Festival Adjudication, FBC, Clinton (CM); (3) Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 31st - 1st (W/MU); (4) Young Pastor's Retreat, Lake Tiak O'Khata, 31st - 1st (P/LD); (5) LTC, MC, Clinton; 31st-1st (CLGM).

For: (1) Bible Drills, Alta Woods BC, Jackson, FBC, Madison (D&FM); (2) Young Musicians Festival, Mississippi College (CM); (3) Lift up C and S and their two children, as they are in training with a Great Commission Christian group this month and plan to be in Malta to work with students this summer.

The Christian Action Commission and the Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention cordially invites pastors, staff, and search committees to a free seminar:

## HIRING, FIRING, AND SUPERVISING: Personnel Issues that Affect the Church

**Thursday, April 6**  
**William Carey College (Kresge Room), Hattiesburg**

Registration deadline is Friday, March 31

**Thursday, May 11**  
**First Baptist Church, Batesville**

Registration deadline is Friday, May 5

**Thursday, May 18**  
**Lee County Baptist Association, Tupelo**

Registration deadline is Friday, May 12

Please register with Rita Wood at (601) 292-3329 (toll free at 1-800-748-1651) or [rwood@christianaction.com](mailto:rwood@christianaction.com) if you are planning to attend.  
Lunch is provided at no charge to you.

### ATTORNEY AND MINISTER JEFF RIMES

of Wells, Marble, and Hurst law firm will be leading the seminar. Jeff also is president of a non-profit legal consulting group called "Rendering Ministries" that offers its services to churches at free or reduced charges.



The seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at noon. The issues that involve hiring, firing, and supervising often are the issues that can be divisive within a church body. Many of these issues require legal means to resolve. This seminar will help churches to address personnel issues in a proactive way so that potential hard times can be avoided in the future. The seminar will be followed by lunch and a question/answer session.

# HOUSE TOPS



The International Center at Mississippi College is proud to announce the recently formed Mississippi College Global Sounds United. These gifted international students have brought their talents from around the world to Mississippi. They gladly share their special gifts at church and organizational functions. For more information, please contact Jim Brackenridge at (601) 925-7635 or email to brackenr@mc.edu.

Seventy-two outstanding students and faculty members from 36 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature on Feb. 28, during the 19th Annual HEADWAE program. Blue Mountain College honorees included William L. Dowdy, associate professor of art, and Jesi Rogers, senior biology major from Pittsboro.

William Carey College announced Mark Malone of Hattiesburg, former director of choral music at Pearl River Community College, as the new dean of the Winters School of Music at Carey. Malone, who will begin at Carey in June, has worked at PRCC since 1985. While on staff at PRCC, he also adjunct taught at Carey and the University of Mississippi.



BMC HEADWAE Honorees, Rogers and Dowdy

William Carey College's African American Gospel Society (AACS) will present the 2006 Gospel Extravaganza Mar. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. The Gospel Extravaganza will feature choirs, groups, and soloists from throughout Mississippi. Tickets for the Gospel Extravaganza are \$5 each and can be purchased at the door. Advance tickets are \$3 and can be purchased by calling Brittany Aikens at (601) 318-6408 or (601) 441-9196 or Jaramis Jones at (601) 590-0467 or (601) 318-6500. Anyone interested in performing during the concert can contact the numbers listed for ticket information.

The year 2006 marks fifty years of ministerial education at Blue Mountain College. On Mar. 31, the Ministerial Alumni Association will recognize this milestone with a day of celebration activities. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Paschal Student Center followed by a special chapel program featuring guests speakers Kermit and Phyllis McGregor, 1960 graduates and BMC's first married couple to graduate together, and Jim Futral, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, visit [www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu) or make reservations by contacting Blue Mountain College's Office of Alumni Affairs at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 119).

*Visit the Baptist Record online at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)*

## Get It Together

### Pastor and Sunday School Director Conference



This will be a great time of fellowship together as the Pastor and Sunday School Director of your church meet together to recapture the vision for your Sunday School. Participants will experience:

- The purpose of Sunday School – a 1st Century concept in a 21st Century world
- The job description of the Pastor, as it pertains to Sunday School
- The job description of the Sunday School director
- How to avoid being the Lone Ranger
- How to plan and dream together

Monday, May 1, 2006  
Bethlehem Baptist Church  
Laurel

Tuesday, May 2, 2006  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Greenwood

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.  
Conference: 7-8:30 p.m.

A complimentary dinner will be provided for all preregistered participants. To preregister, simply complete the registration form below and mail by April 10, 2006, to: Sunday School Department, MBCB, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

#### PASTOR AND SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR CONFERENCE PREREGISTRATION FORM

We will attend: ☐ Bethlehem Baptist Church, Laurel ☐ Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attending at the location indicated above will be:

☐ Pastor (name) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sunday School director (name) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Total number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete form by April 10, 2006, and mail to: Sunday School Dept., MBCB, P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Call 601-968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, for more information.

#### EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCES — 2006 — JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

Sunday 4/2 thru Wednesday 4/5  
11:00am & 6:00pm Sun • 7:00pm M - W  
First Baptist Church Pascagoula

Rex Yancey, Pastor • 228-762-2343  
902 Live Oak Street • Pascagoula, MS 39567

• Scheduled Speakers •

Sunday 11:00 & 6:00 • Emir Caner • Dean  
The College at Southwestern • Former Muslim

Monday 7:00pm • Bob Pitman • Pastor  
Kirby Woods Baptist Church • Memphis, Tennessee

Tuesday 7:00pm • John Sullivan  
Executive Director • Florida Baptist Convention

Wednesday 7:00pm • Junior Hill  
Evangelist • Hartselle, Alabama

Special Music • 5:30pm Sun & 6:30pm M - W

Phil Willis • John Yates  
Sons of the Father • Heavenly Hearts

Music Director • Phil Willis  
Music Evangelist • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Children's Worship Service  
Sunday thru Wednesday - Under the Direction of  
John Yates • Ventriloquist & Musician

FREE LUNCH 11:55am - 1:00pm M-W  
with Evangelist James Messer

UPCOMING 2006 BIBLE CONFERENCES  
July 23 thru 26 at FBC Batesville, MS  
August 6 thru 9 at Salem Heights BC - Laurel, MS

James E Messer Ministries, Inc • PO Box 1325 • Theodore, AL  
Phone: (800 or 251) 653-6652 • [www.jamesmessenger.com](http://www.jamesmessenger.com)



# Missionary tries to see homeless 'like God sees them'

DECATUR, Ga. (Special) — Often discouraged and depressed, the two dozen men sitting in the church service reflect the scars, struggles, and pain of hard lives on Atlanta's infamous Memorial Drive. To Reginald Robbins, they are nothing less than God's children, ready to be reclaimed and reborn.

The men may be drug dealers or addicts, alcoholics, street thugs, or just homeless guys down on their luck. What they all have in common is a strong desire to find a better way of living.

If the men have families, their wives and children are equally welcomed into the Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter, the inner-city church and homeless facility Robbins has pastored and directed for the past six years.

Supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Robbins and wife Anna are among the over 5,200 Southern Baptist North American missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories. The 2006 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$56 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like the Robbins.

Set Free has three distinct ministries: a shelter for homeless families; a ministry to rehabilitate those with substance addictions; and a community outreach ministry that includes a food pantry serving some 1,500 hot meals a week, along with a clothing operation.

Set Free Sanctuary Shelter is the only homeless shelter in the metro Atlanta area that refuses to split up families, who can stay up to three months. To date, the largest family to ever live at the shelter included eight members. Families are provided with hot meals, clean beds, day care for children, counseling, medical assistance, clothing, drug/alcohol addiction treat-

ment, job training, and job search support. They also get a strong dose of the Gospel.

"First, we want to keep families together for the sake of the children and for the health of the marriage," Robbins said. "Most shelters will immediately split up mom and dad, with smaller children going with mom to one shelter while Dad is hauled off to another. If there's a teenage son, he'll be sent along with his dad to the men's shelter. Next, we want to present Christ to the whole family."

The impact of homelessness on children and teenagers is both touching and difficult, according to Robbins. "I remember a family with a six-year-old boy. When we showed the little boy where his room would be, he yelled, 'Look, Mom... Look, Dad... a bed.' You see, they had been sleeping in a car for two weeks."

Homelessness is tough on teenagers as well, because of the potential embarrassment. The shame and stigma of being in a shelter would be devastating if the other kids at school found out.

Robbins said homelessness also damages the father's self-esteem, and he cringes when he hears people say, "Well, if people would just try hard enough to find a job, then they wouldn't be homeless. True enough, there are the lazy that fit that category but at the same time, the vast majority of the homeless are victims of circumstance."

Robbins has a simple credo for the hundreds of homeless men and women who have wandered off the Atlanta streets and into Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter:

"I tell them that once they cross the threshold into this place of ministry, I no longer look at you like you are or like you were, but I look at you with the aspirations and hopes that you will become what God intends for you to be."



RAISED IN NEWNESS — Reggie Robbins (left), North American Mission Board missionary and pastor at Set Free Memorial Drive Ministries and Sanctuary Shelter in Decatur, Ga., baptizes an unidentified new believer at the shelter. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

## CHURCH AND ASSOCIATION DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

### Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, MS

**Saturday, April 1, 2006  
9am to 5pm**

*Chainsaw, Sheltering, Feeding, Mud-Out,  
Childcare, Technician License — HAM  
radio, Blue Cap, Chaplaincy*

Many of our churches and associations have expressed interest in obtaining training in the above areas of Disaster Relief. We are pleased to be able to offer this to your church or association disaster team. The above courses will be taught by our experienced team members. Training will begin at 9 am. Lunch will be served at noon from the DR truck and at 1 pm everyone will attend the Intro to Disaster Relief course. At 2 pm the training classes will continue. You will be able to take 1-2 courses, depending upon the courses you take.

**Cost: \$6.00 per person**  
(includes lunch and registration fee)

**YOU MUST REGISTER!** Space limited.

Deadline: March 31

Questions/Registration: 601.292.3334 (locally) or  
800.748.1651 ext. 334

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
copyrighted 2005

NATHTPVHT MT SHT  
GOHETW MENA AED GJ  
GSKNELD ECVN WTSNA;  
NASN YEFT SL XAHELN  
MSL HSELTW OK PHVD  
NAT WTSW GJ NAT  
RYVHJ VP NAT PSNATH,  
TQTC LV MT SYLV  
LAVOYW MSYF EC CTM-  
CTLL VP YEPT.

HVDSCL LEU: PVOH

Clue: P = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six: Twenty-Seven.

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Honor Christ

Luke 19: 28-32, 35-44

By Huey Dedmon

Have you ever been so captivated by a book, a movie, or a speaker that you could not stop reading, watching, or listening? In our previous lessons, Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. Our passage this week begins with his triumphant entrance into the city, and by the end of our passage we find Jesus teaching in the temple. The Scribes and Pharisees are trying to find a way to kill Jesus, and the people are so captivated by the teachings of Jesus that the Scribes and Pharisees could not touch him. (Luke 19:47-48) Our lesson today should focus our attention on how we honor Christ. How can we find ourselves so captivated by Christ in our lives that we can not stop reading about him, lis-

tening to him, and obeying his instructions?

As Jesus approached the city of Jerusalem he gave his disciples some very simple but unusual instructions. (Luke 19: 29-31) He instructed them to go into the city and there they would find a donkey tied up. If anyone asked them any questions they were to reply that "the Lord needs it." (v. 31, HCSB) I think we need to be careful here not to read more into these verses than what is there. Very simply our focus should be on the obedience of the disciples, not the unusualness of the instructions. If we desire to find ourselves captivated by our Lord, we must learn to obey his instructions, no matter how unusual they seem. We must understand that Jesus



Dedmon

thinks totally different than we do. His focus in his life was obeying the Father in order to bring glory to the Father. His obedience was obedience that led to his death. Who are we trying to bring glory, ourselves or our savior? Whose desires are we obeying, our own desires or the desires of our Father? Obedience to Jesus teaching is the pivotal point in each of our Christian lives.

The disciples made their way into town and found things just as Jesus had said they would be. Many people are amazed when things are just as Jesus said they would be. I wonder why? I think it is because we often do not recognize Jesus as King. As he entered Jerusalem the people followed him, laid their robes before him and shouted "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord." (v. 38, HCSB) Jesus is the King and if we desire to be

captivated by him we must recognize this fact. He is not King because we recognize him as King, he is King whether we recognize it or not. Our recognition of Him as King is for our benefit, not his.

As Jesus entered the city, He began to weep (v. 41). The compassion of Jesus for his own people and their rejection of Him caused Him to cry. The judgment of God was on them because of their unbelief. How often do we weep for the lost of our communities? To be captivated by Jesus means that we as true believers should desire to have the compassion of Christ for the lost. We know the judgment of God on unbelief and we need to use this as motivation to spread the good news to all who will listen.

The modern day church has many shortcomings, but I believe our apathy toward the lost is the most serious. We are so comfortable and content. We have mistaken entertainment for worship, personal opinion for Bible study, social function for discipleship, and church mem-

bership for evangelism. If we truly want to be captivated by Jesus' teachings as the people in Luke 19:48 were, we need to get serious about our walk with Christ. I assure you that Jesus was serious about what he was doing in Jerusalem. He had come there in obedience to His Father. Obedience was what compelled Him to go to the cross and His desire was to bring glory to the Father. Do we desire to bring glory to the Father or are we going to continue in our apathy toward a lost and dying world? I think most of us need a "cleansing of the temple." We need turn our own personal temples into a place of prayer rather than a place of apathy and unconcern. We also need to make our churches places of prayer and action, aimed at showing the same concern that Jesus had for the lost. The only thing it takes for this to happen is for us to simply obey the instructions of the master.

Dedmon is minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Do You Think You Are Unaccountable?

Isaiah 17:1-3, 7-9; 18:1-7

By Lori Clendinning

Many years ago it was popular to say, "The devil made me do it." How sad when people, including believers, refuse to take responsibility for their own sinful actions. Indeed, some want to blame the devil, their parents, society, or even the Lord for their poor choices and wrong behaviors. God, however, wants everyone to submit to His rule and He holds all of us accountable for our behavior.

This week's lesson deals with a rebellious nation's refusal to accept its accountability for sins against Holy God. As Judah's prophet, Isaiah warned the people that destruction was forthcoming as a result of their dependence upon their own power and resources instead of trusting in God.

In 743 BC Northern Kingdom and Syria jointly attacked Judah for its refusal to join a coalition against Assyria. King Ahaz declined the offers of King Rezin of Aram-Damascus (later known as Syria) and King Pekah of Israel to stand against the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser, also known as King Pul. Instead of listening to Isaiah's advice, Ahaz sent an invitation for Assyria to enter Judah, a move which was to become Ahaz's folly.

In Isaiah 17:1, the fate of King Rezin's most strategic city was prophesied: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins." King Pul advanced on Damascus and she fell to Assyrian rule in 732 BC. Many scholars believe that the reference in Isaiah 17:3



Clendinning

regarding "The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim" is about Samaria, the capital of Israel. Certainly, Samaria would have suffered the same fate when King Pul pulverized the alliance between Pekah and Rezin, but the people of the Northern Kingdom rose up in revolt against their king. Pekah was slain and replaced by King Hoshea.

Aram-Damascus and Israel experienced disaster because they depended on their own power and resources instead of trusting in God. They were powerful countries, bent on their own plan to overtake Judah and thwart Assyria's plan to rule them. They had endless faith in their stockpile of weaponry and expansive military, believing they had everything it took to withstand the enemy's attacks. Still, their faith in themselves and their resources was not enough to reverse God's prophecy. Their sins brought them low. Likewise, having powerful influence or resources does not exempt a person from

accountability before God.

God's children were now under Assyrian rule, but not submission to the one true God. Their stubborn hearts and sinful state kept them apart from fellowship with God. Yet, Isaiah prophesied that would not always be the case. Indeed, God's people would "look to their Maker and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah spoke of a future judgment and cleansing for God's people when they will be held accountable and will experience judgment because of their sin. Simply being known as God's people does not exempt anyone from accountability to God. He will judge all the nations, including His very own beloved Israel and she will be restored to Him through the cleansing of her sins.

By doing so, true worship of God Almighty will be restored. God's people would no longer have esteem for false gods, as was their practice in the 8th century BC. The reference in Isaiah 17:8 to "they will have no regard for the Asherah poles" is about the wooden structures built to honor the Amorite or Canaanite goddess that was worshiped

throughout the Ancient Near East. Asherah, often called Ashtaroth, was the leading goddess and consort of the main false god of the Canaanites, known as Melkart or Baal. Asherah was the central figure among fertility gods and God's people had adopted the practice of worshipping her when Queen Jezebel of Tyre introduced the goddess in the 9th century BC.

How amazing is God, that His patience is everlasting and that He loves His children too much to let centuries of sin go by without a holy cleansing. In Isaiah 18:1-7, God's patience and self-restraint is beautifully described: "I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place, like shimmering heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest." (Isaiah 18:4) Never mistake God's quietness as an indication of His inactivity. Rather, His stillness is the stillness before the storm of His judgment. Every person will answer to Holy God, for He is over all nations and peoples, and everyone is accountable to Him.

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
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## STATE CHANGES

Charlie Jones has resigned as pastor of Carrollton Church, Carrollton, to enter full-time evangelism and is available for revivals and witness training events. He may be contacted at (662) 237-0309 or 299-6941.



Manor

**Williamsville Church, Williamsville,** has called Jack Manor as pastor. He comes from Hollandale and is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He has been married to his wife Gail for 19 years and has three children: Jack, 17; Melissa, 14; and Christin, 11.

**Chester Church, Ackerman,** has called Chelsea Wilson as minister of youth effective Mar. 13.

## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

**Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association: Revival,** Apr. 2-5; 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Ray, speaker; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

**First Church, Polkville:** Revival, Mar. 26-29; 7 p.m. nightly; James Messer, speaker; John Boluin, music.

**Plainway Church, Laurel:** Homecoming, Apr. 2; worship followed by dinner on the grounds; Harold C. Ishee, first pastor, speaker.

**Washington Church, Washington:** Revival, Apr. 2-5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Bryant Barnes, Tupelo, speaker; Melissa Upchurch, music; Terry Upchurch, pastor.



1. Youth Spend Spring Break in Roswell, First Church, Magee

1. The student ministry team of First Church, Magee, recently spent spring break in Roswell, N. Mex. Shown are some of the participants.

2. **Ebenezer Church, Liberty,** is preparing for their 200th anniversary celebration May 5-7. Friday: Worship, 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Darwin hall, music; Saturday: song service, 6 p.m., worship, 7 p.m.; Ed Causey, speaker; Helen Creed, music; Sunday: worship, 11 a.m., David Luce, pastor; dinner on the grounds, noon; celebration service, 2 p.m.; Alvin Hall, speaker; Ivy Butler, music; Odus Jackson, history.

3. **Antioch Church, House,** is hosting a Lay Renewal Weekend Apr. 7-9. For more information, call (601) 986-8771. James Young, pastor.

4. The WMU of First Church, Durant, is hosting a prayer retreat, "Building a House of Prayer," Apr. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch, noon. Dorene Branning, speaker. For more information, call (662) 653-3105.

5. **Bentonia Church, Yazoo Association,** is having a dedication service at 11 a.m. and open house from 2-4 p.m. for their new fellowship hall Mar. 26. D. J. Speckner, pastor.

6. The youth group of Bethany Church, Potts Camp, constructed and installed crosses in front of the church from Jan. 14-Feb. 19. The display was entitled Cemetery of the Innocent.

7. **First Church, Crystal Springs,** will host This Hope, a five-member male Christian singing group in concert Mar. 26, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 892-1149.

8. **Central Church, Brandon,** is hosting Glorybound Quartet of Philadelphia Apr. 1, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

9. **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association,** observed Baptist Men's Day Jan. 22, with guest speaker Jack Moser, Girls' basketball coach at Blue Mountain College. He was accompanied by his wife, BSU director Tracy Moser. Shown are Tracy Moser, Jack Moser, and pastor Robert E. Walker.

10. The youth of Southside Church, Aberdeen, placed crosses in recognition of Sanctity of Life week in front of the sanctuary as part of their DiscipleNow weekend. Shown are several of the students painting the crosses.

11. **Magee's Creek Church, Jayess,** is shown worshipping in a carport the morning after Hurricane Katrina struck.

12. Pro-Life Mississippi is sponsoring a "Celebrating New Life" spring banquet at First Church, Jackson, Apr. 6, with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Individual tickets, \$20; table sponsors: \$250 partner, \$500 platinum, and \$1,000, presidential, with seating for 6 at each level. To order tickets, send payment to Pro-Life Mississippi, 618 Briarwood Drive, Suite D, Jackson, MS, 39211.



9. Baptist Men's Day, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assoc.



10. Youth Paint Crosses, Southside Church, Aberdeen



11. Carport Worship after Katrina, Magee's Creek Church, Jayess

13. **Zion Hill Church, Wesson,** recognized Lucille Keys for 22 years of perfect attendance as a Senior Sunday School class teacher. Shown is Keys and pastor Thomas J. McCormick.

14. **Enon Church, Jayess,** held their second annual women's retreat and tea Feb. 25 entitled Missionary at Heart. The retreat was to raise money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and to provide a renewing weekend for attendees. Guests included Betty Davis, Gaye Smith, and Barbara Herring, with guest speaker Sandy Day and music by 4Grace.

15. **Westside Church, Macon,** recognized Ina Hatcher for 45 years of service as church clerk. She has also served as Sunday School director, discipleship director, WMU director, music director, soloist, and choir member. Shown is Hatcher and pastor Jerry F. Zgarba.



13. Perfect Attendance, Zion Hill Church, Wesson



15. Hatcher Recognized for Service, Westside Church, Macon